

09/744042

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

1 12. (New) An apparatus for cutting fish and fish fillets into slices comprising;  
a cutting unit for cutting the fish/fillets into slices made relative to a horizontal plane;  
a feeding unit having means for feeding the fish/fillets to the cutting unit, means for collecting  
and processing data on the fish/fillets having means for registering a length of the fish/fillet relative to  
a feeding direction and/or a weight of the fish/fillet, the feeding unit having an adjustable plane on  
which the fish/fillet is placed and fed forward, means for <sup>automatically</sup> ~~automatically~~ adjusting and setting an angle  
of the plane, relative to the horizontal plane, responsive to the collecting and data processing  
means, continuously during cutting, the angle set as a function of the length and/or the weight of  
the fish/fillet for cutting the fish/fillet into a plurality of slices having an equal length for a given  
thickness, the apparatus having gripping means for removing each cut slice from the cutting area.

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2 13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a sensor unit is placed at a  
distance relative to the cutting unit and opposite to the feeding direction for registering a  
beginning and an end of each fish/fillet.

3 14. (New) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sensor unit is a photocell.

4 15. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the gripping means comprise at  
least one jaw connected in a pivotal manner around an axis.

5 16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the gripping means comprise at least one jaw part which is displaceable in a linear manner.

6 17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising securing elements for securing the fish/fillet during cutting.

7 18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the securing elements are wheels/drums having a periphery in which barbs are mounted which engage and secure the fish/fillet.

8 19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the automatic angle adjustment means comprise a microprocessor.

9 20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the means for setting the angle of the plane comprise a motor and a spindle to which the plane is mounted.

10 21. (New) A method of cutting fish and fillets into slices made relative to a horizontal plane comprising;

placing a fish/fillet on a feeding unit and conveying the fish/fillet to a cutting area;

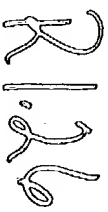
feeding the fish/fillet onto an angle adjustable conveyor in the cutting area;

setting the angle adjustable conveyor at a given angle in relation to the horizontal plane, continuously adjusting the angle relative to each slice to provide each slice with a uniform length for a given thickness and continuously adjusting the angle during cutting of an individual slice;

feeding the fish/fillet a given first distance until a sensor is activated;  
activating the cutting unit for horizontally cutting the slice;  
removing the slice from the cutting area, then, repeating the feeding, adjusting and cutting  
steps for each cut made thereafter to provide a plurality of slices of uniform length for a given  
thickness.

<sup>10</sup>  
11 ~~22~~. (New) The method according to claim ~~21~~, further comprising using a gripping device  
to remove the slice from the cutting area, using a combined linear and rotating movement of the  
gripping device from a start position to an end position.

<sup>11</sup>  
12 ~~23~~. (New) The method according to claim ~~22~~, further comprising, from the end position,  
returning the gripping device to the start position while moving the fish/fillet forward the given  
first distance.

 13 ~~24~~  
<sup>10</sup>  
<sup>21</sup>  
25. (New) The method according to claim ~~20~~, further comprising placing the plurality of  
slices into packaging, moving the packaging for a given second distance synchronously while  
moving the fish/fillet for the given first distance.

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